

Your guide to the  
Nebraska Library  
Commission  
July 1, 2012–  
June 30, 2013  
Year in Review  
FY2013

# Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



Vol. 18 No. 1

## IMLS Grant Supports Next Generation Librarians



INSTITUTE of  
Museum and Library  
SERVICES

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The Nebraska Library Commission's grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian** program continues to improve the quality of library service in Nebraska through recruitment and support of promising library science students. The project, **Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills**, is equipping students with the skills to provide high-quality, individualized customer service by awarding scholarship, internship, and stipend support to students engaged in pre-professional (associate- and bachelor's-level education), and secondarily, master's-level education. Providing the students with value-added learning experiences designed to improve their proficiency in helping library customers develop 21st Century Learner Skills (especially technology literacy) has been a particularly rewarding component of this project. Students participated in learning opportunities and reflected on their experience, making connections as to how new knowledge transfers to their academic and work settings and how their skills make a difference in the lives of library customers. The project includes:

- **Scholarships, internships, and stipends.** In FY2013, sixty-seven scholarships totaling \$169,828 were awarded. Stipends for laptops were awarded to twenty-five students; thirteen students received stipends to join professional library associations; and twenty-five students received stipends to attend national or regional conferences. In FY2013, internship grants totaling

\$20,250 were awarded to eighteen public libraries (related article on p. 14).

- **Value-added learning experiences.** More than one hundred training opportunities were offered to the scholarship students—on topics including health literacy, digital libraries, mobile device services, innovative customer service, and Nebraska Learns 2.0 Things (such as Pinterest and WeGIF). These educational opportunities were offered via live and recorded webcasts, online learning modules, camps, conference sessions, and hands-on training. Twenty-two students attended national conferences with stipend support.
- **Recruitment** of promising high school and college students and diverse library personnel remained a priority. Matching them with educational/employment opportunities at appropriate levels of the career/education ladder was facilitated by the website, [NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org](http://NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org).
- **Marketing and communication** campaign—raising awareness and identifying prospects for library service careers—included a Web-based Storybank ([librarystorybank.nebraska.gov](http://librarystorybank.nebraska.gov)) and other Web 2.0 communication strategies to encourage online social networking, such as the Nebraska Librarians Learning Together Facebook page, ([www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibrarians](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibrarians)), in addition to print collateral.

*"Because of the support structures and both formal and informal trainings I have had the opportunity to attend, I know the truth. The truth is that there is a heightened requirement and massive opportunities for librarians to make a difference in the world today."*

– EXCERPT FROM  
SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION FOR  
A STUDENT WHO  
RECEIVED PREVIOUS  
SCHOLARSHIPS.

*This project is funded through a grant to the Nebraska Library Commission from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program.*



## From the Director...

**L**ibraries adapt. People depend on their libraries to supply the books, magazines and other publications they want to read, or refer to, both paper copies and increasingly eBooks and digital audio-books and other online resources. People expect libraries to offer programming—for all ages. And we expect libraries to be a source for information we need for personal interests, employment, business opportunities, health, or for personal needs such as contacting a distant relative or friend via an Internet connection supplied by the library. The Library Commission's *NCompass* annual review edition covers many activities and events from the past year, demonstrating how the Commission supports Nebraska's evolving and adapting libraries.

The *Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities* three-year grant project ends in September 2013, followed by a few additional months to complete reporting and other close-out work. The final report will highlight many successes; some not imagined at the outset and some goals far surpassed. Funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration, with matching funds and other significant support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, made the project possible. The 140 Nebraska public libraries involved in the project have been great partners along the way and deserve appreciation and credit for their responsiveness and efforts—all for the purpose of better serving the public. Partner organizations enriched the project and added valuable information and services. Project grant funds are spent, but much activity will continue. Sustainability has been promoted throughout the project, as it will be in the future. Technology will need to be replaced and supplemented over time. Programming is expected to continue. In a way—we've only just begun.

The Commission's Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant

(continued on page 14)

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**Nebraska Library Commissioners:** Steve Batty, Chair, McCook, term expires 2015; Charles Gordon, Vice-Chair, Fremont, term expires 2013; Diane Boyd, South Sioux City, term expires 2015; Sherry Crow, Kearney, term expires 2016; Molly Fisher, Lincoln, term expires 2015; Patricia Gross, Bayard, term expires 2016; and Michael LaCroix, Omaha, term expires 2016. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month or as scheduled by public action of the board.

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*This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.*

## Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013

State of Nebraska Funds .....	\$ 3,657,624
Federal Funds .....	3,003,575
Cash Funds. ....	549,479
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$7,210,678</b>

## Projects Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

Braille Services (Utah State Library) .....	\$ 2,625
Collaborative Summer Library Program .....	4,233
Continuing Education and Training .....	15,518
Electronic Information Resources .....	403,260
United for Libraries .....	10,425
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation) .....	78,991
Local Library Public Computer Centers (NTIA/BTOP/Gates) .....	602,490
LSTA/Library Improvement .....	34,020
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries .....	16,290
Nebraska Center for the Book. ....	4,605
OverDrive Downloadable Books. ....	24,000
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software .....	4,125
Regional Library Systems .....	596,402
Scholarships, Stipends, Internships .....	196,893
State Aid to Public Libraries .....	363,618
Youth Grants for Excellence .....	20,802
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,378,297</b>

**Note:** Project funds may be distributed over more than one fiscal year.

## Meet the Reference Staff



Front row left to right: Mary Geibel, Mary Sauers, and Lynda Clause

Back row - left to right: Lisa Kelly, Beth Goble, Bonnie Henzel and Susan Knisely

In the past year several changes in personnel were made on the Nebraska Library Commission reference and interlibrary loan team. The team now includes:

**Beth Goble** is now part time as Historical Services Librarian. She still spends time at the reference desk answering e-mail questions and she celebrated twenty years with the state this summer. Beth and her husband Ron travel regularly to Michigan to visit their two granddaughters and also spend time at their other home in Alberta, Canada.

**Mary Sauers** comes to us by way of Lincoln City Libraries where she worked at the Anderson and Bethany Branches in public services. Prior to moving to Nebraska in 2009 she worked at BCR, the former OCLC regional network located in Denver. It was there that she met her husband, Michael Sauers.

**Mary Geibel** spent many years answering and routing incoming calls to the Nebraska Library Commission as a member of the Administrative Services team. Since the reference desk staff now perform "switchboard" duties, Mary transitioned to the reference team, where she answers phones and serves as first contact for book group reservations and questions.

**Lynda Clause** is the newest team member and also worked previously at Lincoln City Libraries. Lynda works with Interlibrary Loan and reference desk questions. Lynda is planning to return to school this fall to study Digital Humanities, along with working full time at the Library Commission.

**Bonnie Henzel** continues assisting the team at the reference desk, while working with Nebraska state publications and Nebraska State Government Publications Online, through the Nebraska Library Commission's Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse.

**Susan Knisely** is a part of the Technology and Access Services Team, but also spends time at the reference desk. She specializes in OverDrive and database subscription questions, in addition to many other topics.

**Lisa Kelly** remains at the reference desk after twenty years and has learned many new tasks as staff have come and gone. She manages the Reference Team by example, with a sense of humor and strong customer service ethic. For more information contact Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, 402-471-4015 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov](mailto:lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov).

## Library Commission Staff Transitions

### Arrivals

- **Eric Green**, Librarian Senior (Panhandle Library System Coordinator)
- **Mary Sauers**, Librarian Senior (Government Information Services Librarian)
- **Lynda Clause**, Staff Assistant II (Interlibrary Loan & Reference Staff Assistant)

### Departures

- **Evelyn Kubert**, Staff Assistant II (Interlibrary Loan & Reference Staff Assistant)
- **Jim Atkins**, Office Clerk III (TBBS Circulation Clerk)
- **Angela Gunther Gonzalez**, Federal Aid Administrator I (BTOP Grant Compliance Officer)

### Reassignment

- **Beth Goble**, Library Commission Unit Director (Government Information Services Director) to Librarian (Historical Services Librarian)
- **Mary Geibel**, Secretary II to Library Technician (Information Services Technician)
- **Dave Eckmann**, Library Technician (Information Services Technician) to Office Clerk III (TBBS Circulation Clerk)

### Employee of the Year 2013 Mary Geibel



Mary Geibel

### Manager of the Year 2013 Richard Miller



Richard Miller



## Council Aids Commission

The State Advisory Council on Libraries was established by the Nebraska Library Commission to advise on statewide library development, planning, and federal library programs—including providing input on the LSTA Five-Year Program Evaluation and the 2013-2017 LSTA Long-Range Plan. The members represent all types of libraries and all areas of Nebraska. They consist of library professionals, paraprofessionals, supporters, and customers. They met in November 2012 in Lincoln and in March 2013 in Grand Island.

State Advisory Council members included:

**Robin Bernstein**, Freeman-Lozier Library, Bellevue University

**John Dale**, Wayne

**Kate Borchman Hassebrook**, Lyons  
**Francine Canfield**, Baright Public Library, Ralston

**Deb Carlson**, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

**Ceri Daniels**, Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather, LLP, Lincoln

**Beth Falla**, Lied Imperial Public Library

**Steve Fosselman**, Grand Island Public Library

**Denise Harders**, Republican Valley Library System, Hastings

**Jayne Hlavac**, Schuyler Central High School

**Sherry Houston**, Papillion

**Beth Kabes**, Educational Service Unit 7, Columbus

**Cecelia Lawrence**, North Platte Public Library

**Pat Leach**, Lincoln City Libraries

**Trine McBride**, Wayne

**Betty Meyer**, Thayer Central Community Schools, Hebron, NSLA Liaison

**Vickie Retzlaff**, Grant County Library, Hyannis

**Janet Stoeger Wilke**, Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska at Kearney

**Christine Walsh**, Kearney Public Library, NLA Liaison

**Ellen Weed**, Norfolk Regional Center

**Kara Welch**, Ainsworth Community Schools

**Merrillene Wood**, Learning Resource Center, Western NE Community College-Scottsbluff

**Frank Zimmerman**, Auburn



## Thank You, Commissioners

Nebraska Library Commission staff members want to thank the Library Commissioners who served during this past year for their commitment to improving Nebraska library services. As representatives of the public, the Commissioners are the primary force ensuring that the agency is fully responsible for the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library programs and services in accordance with nationally acceptable library standards. Their primary areas of focus involve policy making, director relations, strategic planning, fiscal matters, operations, and advocacy. Their dedication and involvement is integral to our success.

Commissioners are appointed by the governor and serve three-year terms. Meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board. For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission Website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>, search on Commission Meetings. Commissioners who served during FY 2013 were: Steve Batty, McCook; Diane Boyd, South Sioux City; Sherry Crow, Kearney; John Dale, Lincoln; Charles Gordon, Fremont; Patricia Gross, Bayard; and Molly Fisher, Lincoln



Commissioners share coffee and conversation with Library Commission staff: (left) Sally Snyder, Richard Miller, and Sherry Crow; (right) John Dale; (bottom at table) Diane Boyd, Patricia Gross, and Steve Batty.



**Ed. Note:** Due to state budget reductions, future print editions of the **NCompass Newsletter** will be limited to the Annual/Biennial Report editions, until further notice. To receive regular information from the Nebraska Library Commission, subscribe to the weekly **NCompass E-Newslist**. Fill out the form at <http://eepurl.com/HSkX> to stay

abreast of Nebraska library activities. Receive a weekly e-mail in your inbox (currently Mondays around 9:00 a.m. CT) with a short summary of each posting on the **NCompass Blog** from the previous week. Click on the headline in the e-mail message to read the complete content of the blogpost and to comment.





## Nebraskans Speak Out for Libraries

Linda Thoms, Scottsbluff; Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, Lincoln; Patricia Gross, Nebraska Library Commissioner, Bayard; Rep. Adrian Smith; Sherry Crow, Nebraska Library Commissioner, Kearney; Brenda Ealey, Lincoln City Libraries Branch Manager; Steve Batty, Nebraska Library Commission Chair, McCook, advocate for libraries.

In 2013 Nebraska library representatives traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in national library advocacy activities. Major library-related issues addressed included E-rate funding for schools and libraries, Library Services and Technology Act appropriations, and school library provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner presented the *United for Libraries* 2013 Public Service Award to Rep. Jeff Fortenberry during National Library Legislative Day. Rep. Fortenberry was the first

Congressman willing to speak up about the importance of the issue of compelling libraries to test for lead in all children's books. He recognized that a legislative fix that reasonably dealt with the issue was needed and introduced H.R.1692 "to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to exempt ordinary books from the lead limit in such Act." The Public Service Award is given annually by the American Library Association's *United for Libraries* to a legislator who has been especially supportive of libraries. ♦♦



Brenda Ealey, Lincoln City Libraries Branch Manager; Patricia Gross, Nebraska Library Commissioner, Bayard; Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, Lincoln; Rep. Jeff Fortenberry; Sherry Crow, Nebraska Library Commissioner, Kearney; Steve Batty, Nebraska Library Commission Chair, McCook, at Public Service Award presentation.

**Download Audiobooks & eBooks**  
anytime, anywhere

Nebraska OverDrive Libraries  
<http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com>

## Nebraska OverDrive Grows

The Nebraska OverDrive Libraries group expanded from 109 to 140 member libraries by the end of the fiscal year. Library patrons downloaded 66,654 audiobooks and 159,304 eBooks.

To address the increasing demand for digital materials, the Library Commission submitted a special state funding request as part of its 2013-2015 biennial budget. With support from the Nebraska Library Association and public libraries around the state, local library staff and customers educated members of the Legislature, securing support and funding for **Nebraska eReads**. Of the \$925,000 per year requested for library audiobooks and eBooks, the Nebraska Legislature approved \$150,000 per year for the biennium. These funds will be divided between the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries, Omaha Public Library, Ralston Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries based on their legal service areas.

The Library Commission coordinated and supported the OverDrive service for the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries, and paid the annual maintenance fees. Any legally-established public library (population under 50,000) was invited to participate. For more information see the Library Commission OverDrive Website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [susan.kniseley@nebraska.gov](mailto:susan.kniseley@nebraska.gov), or Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Service Director, 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [devra.dragos@nebraska.gov](mailto:devra.dragos@nebraska.gov). ♦♦



## Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities

The Nebraska Library Commission's public computer center project, **Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities**, was a major effort during this fiscal year. The three-year project (August 1, 2010, to July 31, 2013) expanded broadband capacity; upgraded public computing resources in libraries; and advanced access to employment, learning, health information, and eGovernment services. The U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), provided **\$2,416,403**—matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with **\$1,251,786**—with a total project budget of **\$3,668,189**.

By the end of FY13, the Nebraska Library Commission had expended more than \$2,218,000 on computer equipment/software and furniture, with all grant expenditures 94.3% complete. Nearly all 147 library buildings received their full equipment orders. Broadband upgrades demonstrated significant improvement in community access to information. The goal of forty-five upgrades was surpassed, with 118 upgrades completed, including twenty-nine fiber upgrades. The average speed moved from 3.8Mbps to 20.4Mbps—a 16.6Mbps increase. All libraries reported offering wireless networks for public use. Forty-four libraries completed electrical/wiring upgrades. One hundred and thirty-four libraries held open houses and other events to celebrate the new public computer centers. 1,416 public computer workstations were deployed—645 replacement and 771 new stations. This investment in Nebraska communities paid off with an average of 27,656 Nebraskans using the public computers per week at the 147 library buildings, in the final quarter of FY13.

One key to the utilization and sustainability of the public computer

centers was ongoing delivery of online and face-to-face training. Nebraska Library Commission staff provided training, including Marketing Training, Technology Planning Summer Camps, E-Rate Sessions, and ADA Software Training. The following **Educational Programming Partners** offered training at the libraries in labor market/job search, medical information, legal/courts access, economic and business development, and computer skills:

- Center for Rural Affairs
- Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
- Nebraska's Community Colleges
- Nebraska Court Administrator's Office
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine: MidContinental Region
- Nebraska Community Foundation
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
- University of Nebraska Medical Center, McGoogan Library of Medicine

See the Blog Calendar at <http://lbbnc.nebraska.gov> for a list of classes. For more information contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission Project & Program Coordinator, 402-471-4870 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov](mailto:joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov).

*This project was supported in part by the **Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)**, funded by the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**, and the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*

**Ed. Note:** A two-month extension has been granted by the funders, with the grant now scheduled to end on September 30, 2013—followed by a three-month closeout period. ♦♦

**NebraskAccess** is the Nebraska Library Commission's public portal for Nebraskans—leading to information databases, evaluated Websites, government publications, and more. Timely information is provided through seasonal "Hot Topics" and the "What's New" links, and "Nebraska FAQs," which are created when the Library Commission Information Services reference librarians receive the same question more than once.

NebraskAccess continued to provide free, 24/7, full-text access to thousands of magazines and journals, newspaper articles, biographical information, and genealogical resources. Nebraskans logged in with either their Nebraska driver's license or a password from their local library. They used this service to complete work or school assignments, research health and medical topics, keep up on current events, trace family histories, and explore hobbies and other topics of personal interest.

The statewide subscription databases received heavy usage as shown by the number of searches undertaken between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013:

• FirstSearch . . . . .	766,189
• HeritageQuest . . . . .	120,394
• eLibrary . . . . .	94,511
• Wilson OmniFile . . . . .	2,843,912
• Wilson Biographies . . . . .	399,660
• Books in Print . . . . .	44,863

To use NebraskAccess go to <http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov>. For more information contact Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 5.

*NebraskAccess databases are funded through the **State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services**, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission. ♦♦*

## Library Commission Distributes State Aid to Libraries

The Nebraska Library Commission supported public libraries in 2013 with total payments of \$363,618 in direct state aid, including *Dollars for Data* and other special incentive awards. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, must submit their annual *Public Libraries Survey* online, and must receive local funding in an amount at least equal to their lowest annual local income from the three previous years. This year three additional libraries attained accreditation status and became eligible to receive state aid.

**Direct State Aid.** In 2013, 174 Nebraska public libraries earned state aid payments and 104 of these libraries also earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of reaching enhanced or excellent accreditation status. Libraries were accredited at one of three levels: essential, enhanced, or excellent. Each level represents increased expectations regarding funding, hours open to the public, and programs and services offered. The Library Commission made an additional payment of \$400 for each library with an excellent accreditation and \$200 for enhanced status. This year, six libraries were able to upgrade their accreditation level from essential to enhanced and one library advanced from the enhanced level to excellent status.


**Incentive Payments.** Additional direct state aid payments based on the amount of funds received from another public entity were made to eighty libraries. A total of \$29,943 was distributed in 2013 as one-percent incentive aid payments for these libraries.

**Dollars for Data.** The Library Commission awards incentive payments of \$200 to unaccredited libraries that complete and submit the annual *Public Libraries Survey* online through *Bibliostat Collect* by the published deadline. Forty libraries qualified for these payments this year. Providing public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since submitting the annual survey is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation*, these libraries are now closer to achieving accredited status.

For more information, contact John Felton, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [john.felton@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.felton@nebraska.gov), or Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [richard.miller@nebraska.gov](mailto:richard.miller@nebraska.gov). 

## Youth Services Supported through Grants


Thirteen grants were awarded to public libraries and regional library systems for a total of \$20,802 in the past year. Funded projects included bringing an author to a community school and public library, "Family Night at the Library" monthly programming, and learning to provide sensory-friendly story times for children with special needs. The Library Commission awards these grants annually to give Nebraska libraries

the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions. It is expected that this funding will provide a foundation for ongoing services that will be continued with community support or through reallocation of library funds. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [sally.snyder@nebraska.gov](mailto:sally.snyder@nebraska.gov). 

## E-rate Helps More Libraries through Telecommunications Discounts

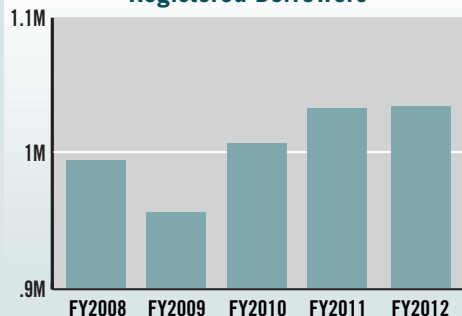
Nebraska schools and libraries received \$11.2 million in discounts on telecommunications costs during FY 2013 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013) through the Universal Service Fund (E-rate) program. Schools and libraries in the state submitted 855 applications for 1,673 requests.

Nebraska libraries were awarded \$296,190 in discounts—an increase of \$128,291 over last year. Discounts ranged from 20 to 90 percent, with 114 of the state's public libraries participating, including the Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. 110 libraries were awarded telecommunications discounts, and 59 were also awarded discounts on Internet services. 81 of the 114 libraries participating in the E-rate program—up from 101 participants last year—had 60 to 70 percent discounts on their telecommunications and/or Internet access bills. Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students in the local school district who are eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program, an indicator of the local level of need, and the County's Rural or Urban status as determined by the U.S. Census.

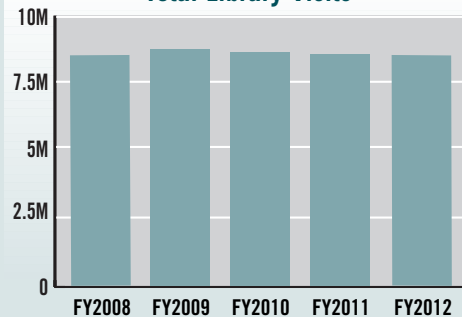
The Nebraska Library Commission provides education, training, and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate applications. For more information about E-rate support in Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/> or contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Special Projects Librarian, 402-471-3107 or 800-307-2265, e-mail: [christa.burns@nebraska.gov](mailto:christa.burns@nebraska.gov). For more information about the E-rate program, see <http://www.usac.org/sl/>. 

## Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey—2008-2012

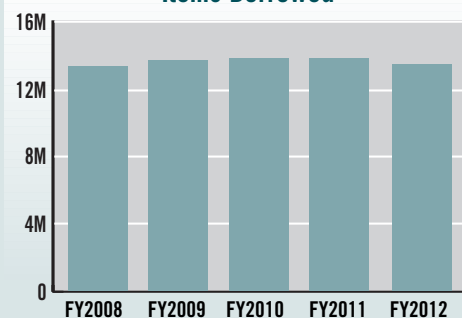
Registered Borrowers



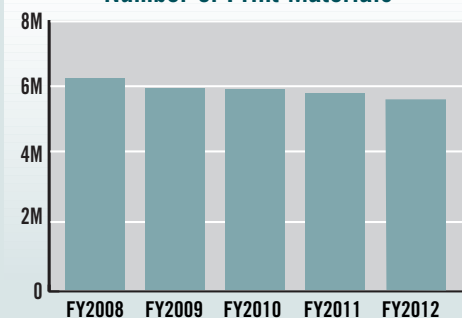
Total Library Visits



Items Borrowed



Number of Print Materials



## The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska, 2012-2013

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), there are 8,951 public libraries in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. In Nebraska, there are 268 legally established public libraries plus seven bookmobiles and eighteen branch facilities. Seven public libraries in the state are combined with public schools and two are combined public/academic libraries. The 2011/2012 *Public Libraries Survey* in Nebraska was completed by 82% of the state's libraries. The results provide a dependable measure of overall library service and usage trends in Nebraska.

The number of public access Internet computers has been increasing dramatically, thanks in large part to the Gates Foundation Opportunity Online grant and the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant awarded to the Library Commission. The BTOP project, *Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities*, was also responsible for an increase in the number of public libraries offering free Wi-Fi for the public. Looking at Internet connectivity in public libraries, the trend in Nebraska indicates a decrease in libraries providing lower speed connections and an associated increase in the number of libraries with faster connections. This again substantiates the impact of the Commission BTOP grant on the ability of public libraries to offer enhanced online services.

Overall circulation of material has leveled off and remains flat, but uses of non-print resources have increased. Greater numbers of library programs and increased attendance indicates that public libraries are actively engaging community members in learning events at all age levels. In this first year of collecting information about circulation of digital, downloadable material, Nebraska public libraries counted more than 435,000 uses of electronic resources.

The number of eBooks in library collections continues to grow, while collections of traditional print materials are decreasing in size. This trend is causing libraries to reassess how they

allocate collection resources and determine the optimum balance of print versus digital material. The dramatic increase between 2011 and 2012 was caused partially by changes in how these statistics are reported. Collections of audio materials have also increased significantly, most likely due to the availability of digital downloadable audiobooks, which are another form of electronic book. It is also interesting to note that library holdings of video materials continue to grow.

Other trends revealed by the results of the 2011/2012 Nebraska *Public Libraries Survey* include the following:

- 143 Nebraska public libraries now loan eBooks—that is 53% of Nebraska public libraries. The state population served by these libraries is 1,468,956 or 80% of all Nebraska residents.
- Number of total resources in Nebraska public libraries: 8,288,600 items.
- Number of Internet computers available to the public: 2,687—an increase of more than 15% compared to 2011.
- Number of libraries with improved broadband Internet speeds since 2011: 55 or 20.5%.
- Public libraries loaned 13,497,292 items in one year
- Libraries that connect to their customers through social networks: 164 or 61.2%
- Number of registered library users: 1,026,086
- Number of public library customers served: 8,656,034
- Libraries providing wireless Internet access: 79%
- Programs and attendance: Libraries delivered 27,159 programs, which were attended by 686,531 people.
- Libraries that have active, helpful Websites: 150 or 56%
- Nebraskans paid only \$26.11 per capita in 2012 for public library service
- Twelve Nebraska public libraries were recognized as "Star Libraries" in the 2012 *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service*. That's four more than appeared in the 2011 ranking.

(continued on page 9)



## The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska (continued)

### Selected Nebraska Library Statistics FY 2011 through 2012<sup>1</sup>

	FY2011	FY2012	% Change
Registered Borrowers	1,024,376	1,026,086	0.17%
Items Borrowed	13,792,713	13,497,292	-2.14%
Items Borrowed per Capita	9.49	9.29	-2.11%
Internet Computers for Public Use	2,327	2,687	15.47%
Internet Computers per Library	8.68	10.03	15.52%
Uses of Library Internet Computers	2,346,620	2,273,182	-3.13%
Libraries Providing Free WiFi	199	211	6.03%
No. Library Programs Offered	25,458	27,159	6.68%
Library Program Attendance	639,706	686,531	7.32%
Number of Books in Collection	5,819,443	5,659,397	-2.75%
Number of Print Subscription	14,261	14,055	-1.44%
Number of E-books Available	459,127	962,807	109.70%
Annual Hours Open	413,384	415,953	0.62%
Service Area Population	1,453,288	1,453,012	-0.02%
Local Government Revenue	46,279,509	47,694,603	3.06%
Internet Connection Speed <sup>2</sup>			
56Kbps	2	2	0.00%
57Kbps-768Kbps	24	19	-20.83%
769Kbps-1.4Mbps	20	12	-40.00%
1.5Mbps	11	9	-18.18%
1.6-5Mbps	88	76	-13.64%
6-10Mbps	57	74	29.82%
> 10Mbps	19	31	63.16%

<sup>1</sup> Source: Nebraska Public Libraries Survey FY 2012 (222 or 82% responding)

<sup>2</sup> Among the 147 BTOP grant libraries, the average broadband speed as of June 2013 was 18.32Mbps.

### Nebraska Public Libraries:

Nebraska public libraries that provide homework resources

68%

Libraries that assist their users with accessing and using e-government services

88%

Libraries that host technology training sessions for the public

86.4%

Libraries that provide the only free Internet access in their communities

82.2%

Libraries with improved broadband Internet access speed since 2010

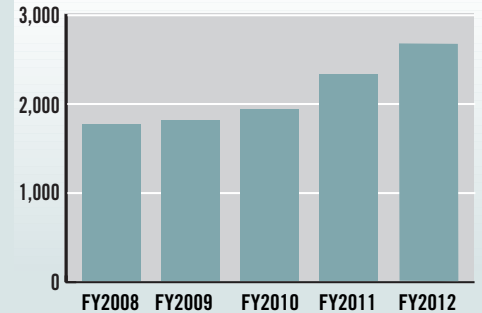
39.3%

Libraries providing wireless Internet access

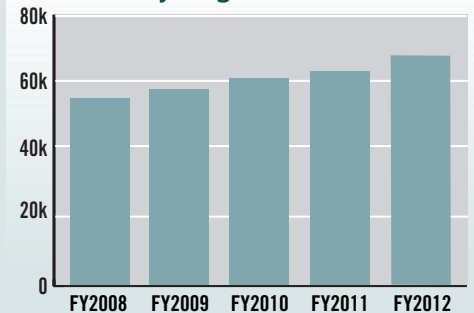
74%

## Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey—2008-2012

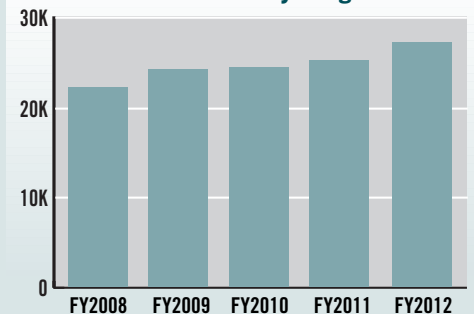
### Number of Library Internet Computers



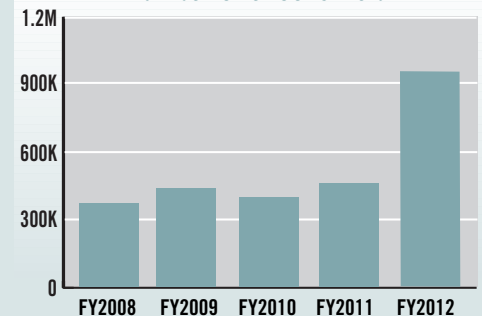
### Library Program Attendance



### Number of Library Programs



### Number of eBooks Held



# READING IS FOR



**EVERYONE** @ Your Library®

## Committee Advises on Talking Books

The Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service provides input regarding library programs and policies. The nine-member committee, comprised of Talking Book readers and service providers, met twice in the past fiscal year and advised on ways to promote the new public access catalog and improve accessibility. The committee also offered advice on ways to use the new YouTube video, "Talking Books: Here, Now," which targets qualifying students, media center specialists, and educators.

During this past fiscal year, the Library of Congress began distributing its national audio magazines on digital cartridge with more than one magazine per cartridge. This change required the use of navigation software that is built into the Library of Congress digital players. The Advisory Committee offered strategies to help Nebraska's talking book readers feel more comfortable with the navigation software.

Introducing the Talking Book and Braille Service to potential readers is an ongoing committee activity. This year, the committee especially focused on strategies to promote the program to qualifying Hispanic Nebraskans through community centers and medical clinics.

Committee members for FY2013:

**Jim Berryman**, Grand Island  
**Kate Borchman Hassebrook**, Lyons  
**Shelly Gray**, Omaha  
**Susan Ledder**, Lincoln  
**Linda Marie Mentink**, Columbus  
**Brad Meurrens**, Lincoln  
**Beth Pakiz**, Omaha  
**Kristal Platt**, Omaha  
**John Wick**, Omaha



# Compass

## Library Commission Diversifies Talking Book Outreach

Volunteers are at the heart of providing Talking Book and Braille Services. They are also a key part of our outreach strategy. Studio volunteer narrator Pete Mayeux, retired professor from the UNL School of Journalism and Mass Communications, was recently inducted into the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. A video segment featuring Pete was filmed in the Library Commission's studios and later shown during Pete's induction ceremony. National Volunteer Week was celebrated with a volunteer reception, featuring a Library of Congress consultant as guest speaker, who also helped to recognize milestones of service.

Ads appeared in two issues of *Nebraska Life* magazine. An issue of *Nebraska History* newsletter included an article about the Talking Book Service, as did the League of Human Dignity's newsletter, *On the Level*, and the Meridian Library System newsletter, *Meridian Monitor*.

Talking Book staff conducted workshops at Omaha's W. Dale Clark Library and W. Clarke Swanson Branch Library. Information about the Talking Book program was included in the Commission booth during World Day at the Mall, Teachers' Night at the Durham Museum, and the League of Municipalities and Nebraska Association of County Officials annual conferences. Staff made presentations to the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, residents of Savannah Pines Adult Community, and a University of Missouri/University of Nebraska Omaha Special Libraries class.

Outreach mailings targeted qualifying Nebraska veterans and members of Nebraska's Hispanic



**Volunteer narrator Pete Mayeux records a Nebraska magazine in the Library Commission recording studio.**

communities. Staff worked with a videographer to create and distribute a YouTube video, *Talking Books: Here, Now* ([nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs)), to promote Talking Book and Braille Service to school librarians, educators, and qualifying students.

Outreach efforts were extended and renewed with a number of nonprofit organizations that work with people with disabilities, including Easter Seals Nebraska, United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska, and stroke survivors and Spina Bifida support groups. Talking Book staff identified popular titles used in Nebraska public library book clubs. The Library Commission Book Club Kit Website notes, "Is there someone who would like to join your book club who struggles with regular print because of a disability? The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service offers many popular fiction and nonfiction titles."

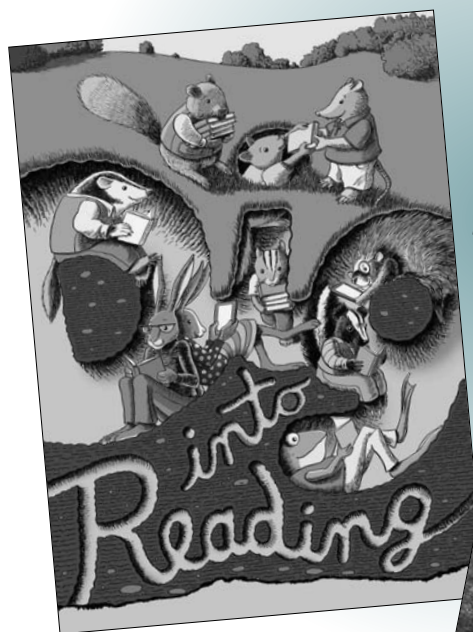
For more information contact David Oertli, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005 or 800-742-7691; e-mail: [david.oertli@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.oertli@nebraska.gov).



## Library Commission Supports Summer Reading

The Nebraska Library Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program by providing training and materials. The 2013 theme was "Dig into Reading," the teen theme was "Beneath the Surface," and the adult theme was "Groundbreaking Reads." The Library Commission provided statewide workshops, co-sponsored by the Regional Library Systems. Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, gave book-talks across the state. The Library Commission supplied manuals and book lists to complement the theme. Additional materials were made available on the Library Commission Website. Children and teens also participated in the Summer Reading Program through the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service.

As a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program consortium, which consists of all fifty states (and the District of Columbia and two territories), the Library Commission contributed funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials to libraries across Nebraska. Members in the consortium obtain high-quality materials at lower prices, share creative ideas, and invest less state-level staff time on this annual program. For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 7.



## Commission Sponsors One Book for Kids/Teens

The Nebraska Library Commission supports a One Book reading program to encourage Nebraska kids and teens to read and discuss the same book with each other and with the adults in their lives. The 2013 One Book for Nebraska Kids selection was *Aliens on Vacation* by Clete Barrett Smith. The 2013 One Book for Nebraska Teens selection was *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld. The Nebraska Library Commission Reference team distributed book bag kits. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/obok> or contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 7.





Kathy Dempsey makes a presentation at Library Commission-supported training.

## Commission Awards Training Grants

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$16,035 in Continuing Education (CE) and Training Grants from July 2012 through June 2013. Awarded through a competitive grant process to accredited public libraries, institutional libraries, or regional library systems, the funds were used to provide training and continuing education to Nebraska library workers and trustees.

Funds for the 2012 Colloquium were awarded to Eastern and Southeast Library Systems. Kathy Dempsey, author of *The Accidental Library Marketer* and blogger at LibrariesAreEssential.com, presented "Building Community Partnerships" training to a group of Nebraska librarians. The Lincoln City Libraries inservice training, "Bridges out of Poverty," was funded with a Nebraska Library Commission CE & Training Grant. A grant also funded training for the Omaha Public Library staff. A bus to transport Nebraska librarians to the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago was funded with a grant to the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems. For more information, contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [laura.johnson@nebraska.gov](mailto:laura.johnson@nebraska.gov).



## Pioneer Consortium Expands Membership

Pioneer, the open-source consortium of Nebraska libraries, has expanded from its original five members to nineteen libraries—public libraries in Arapahoe, Atkinson, Beatrice, Bennington, Blue Hill, Central City, David City, Grand Island, Grant, Hildreth, Holdrege, Lincoln, St. Paul, South Sioux City, Stromsburg, Papillion, Superior, Valparaiso; and Western Nebraska Community College. The latter is the first non-public library to join the consortium; although one of the original members, St. Paul, is a combined public/school library. The consortium continued to grow the cooperative catalog, as well as provide improvements in software to facilitate the workings of the catalog and cooperative activities among the members. Libraries chose to join as an alternative to replacing current stand-alone systems with another proprietary system at greater cost. The consortium received grants of \$34,020 from the Nebraska Library Commission to share costs with the members for software development and improvement. The consortium worked cooperatively with other library consortia in the U.S. that use the same Koha Integrated Library System software for their shared

catalogs. This spreads the cost of software development over a larger number of libraries and keeps the cost down for individual libraries.

Officers of the consortium were President, Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries; Vice-President, Robin Clark, Papillion's Sump Memorial Library; Secretary, Maria Cadwallader, Valparaiso Public Library; and Treasurer, Pam Soreide, Holdrege Area Public Library. New officers are: President, Pam Soreide, Holdrege Area Public Library; Vice-President, Robin Clark, Sump Memorial Library; Secretary, Lauren Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library; and Treasurer, Vicki Perrie, Superior Public Library. For more information on the Pioneer Consortium, see <http://lclpioneer.wordpress.com>. For membership questions contact Steve Fosselman, 308-385-5333, e-mail: [sf@gi.lib.ne.us](mailto:sf@gi.lib.ne.us). For technical questions, contact Andrew (Sherm) Sherman, 402-597-2050, e-mail: [andrew.sherman65@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.sherman65@gmail.com).

*Significant funding for this project has been provided through grants from the Nebraska Library Commission, funded through the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** under the provisions of the **Library Services and Technology Act**.*

## NCompass

Are you missing out on important library information?  
Subscribe to the Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass E-Newslist* for weekly access to information about Nebraska library activities.  
<http://eepurl.com/HSkX>

A weekly news sheet from the Nebraska Library Commission, <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>

The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023  
Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 Fax: 402-471-2083



## From the Director... (continued)

project *Cultivating Rural Librarians' 21st Century Skills* continued with scholarships, stipends, internships, special training activities and more—with notable successes. The productive work of the Public Library Accreditation Review Committee concluded with a new approach introduced this year. Online basic skills courses have grown in number and participation. Talking Book and Braille Services lead in helping borrowers use digital technologies for reading books and magazines. The Commission's weekly *NCompass Live* webinars have offered various and timely topics important to Nebraska's library workers, trustees, friends, and advocates.

The Library Commission, regional library systems, our state library associations, and one thousand plus libraries have all had an active year. The Library Commission's annual report is an opportunity to thank all our many colleagues and partners for their support and efforts. In the year ahead the Library Commission will continue to pursue its statutory purposes toward statewide promotion, development and coordination of library services.

Rod Wagner ♦♦

## Statewide Motion Picture License Provided

The Nebraska Library Commission funded a statewide license for public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries, at a cost of \$16,290 for the year. All Nebraska public libraries are covered by the license between the Library Commission and Movie Licensing USA to allow motion pictures to be shown as part of library services and programming at Nebraska public libraries. For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 7. ♦♦



Rock County Public Library Intern Saresse Clay assists customers at the library.

## Internship Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association awarded internship grants to eighteen libraries in March 2013, funded through the *Cultivating Rural Librarians' 21st Century Skills* grant program. Interns learned about library work as they helped with day-to-day operations and worked on special projects. They conducted summer reading programming, made recommendations for young adult collections, wrote Blog posts, assisted customers in the computer lab, and instructed customers on how to check out and download eBooks to eReading devices. Several interns became employees of a library.

One intern shared a story of her experience, "I was almost brought to tears when a patron informed us that our teen writing contest inspired her daughter to write more and possibly pursue a career in the field. The mother and daughter were both ecstatic when she won first place."

The following libraries received internship grants in 2013:

- Bassett, Rock County Public Library
- Beatrice Public Library
- Emerson Public Library

- Fremont, Keene Memorial Library
- Grant, Hastings Memorial Library
- Kimball Public Library
- La Vista Public Library
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Norfolk Public Library
- North Bend Public Library
- Omaha Public Library
- Ord Township Library
- Papillion, Sump Memorial Library
- Ponca Carnegie Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- South Sioux City Public Library
- Stromsburg Public Library
- Verdigre Public Library

*The internship program is funded through a grant to the Nebraska Library Commission from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program.*

**Ed. Note:** More information about grants awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission—including links to a database of recipients since 1998—is located at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/> ♦♦



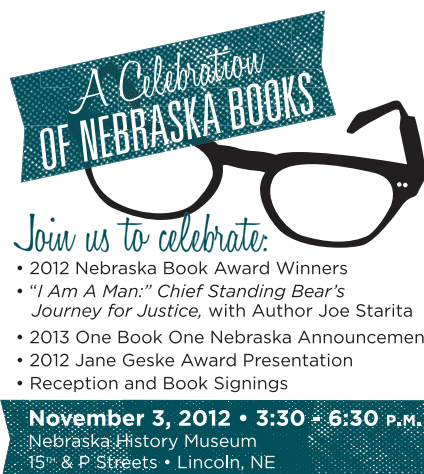
## Library Commission Hosts Center for the Book

The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance during FY2013 to the Nebraska Center for the Book, which brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. The Library Commission supported the following projects:

**Nebraska Book Festival.** The festival, *Believing in Nebraska Writers*, was held at the University of Nebraska Omaha. It included author readings by a variety of Nebraska authors with books published in 2012, award presentations, exhibits and vendors, panel discussions, writers' workshops, and performances by high school students who competed in the *Louder than a Bomb: Omaha Youth Poetry Festival*. The festival featured a keynote presentation by Kurt Andersen, author of *True Believers*, and a special presentation by Andrew Jewell, co-editor of *The Selected Letters of Willa Cather*, highlighting the 2013 One Book One Nebraska selection *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather. The festival was jointly sponsored by Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Library Commission, University of Nebraska Omaha College of Arts and Sciences, and University of Nebraska Press.

**Jane Geske Award. The Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation** was presented the Jane Geske Award. The award—a piece of art by a Nebraska artist—is given annually to honor exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, and writing in Nebraska. The award pays tribute to Jane Pope Geske, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book and long-time active member in many Nebraska library and literary activities.

**Mildred Bennett Award. Jane Renner Hood**, of Lincoln, was recognized for significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska. She was cited for her leadership and service in the promotion of



For more info,  
[centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)  
[facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook](http://facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook)  
 Sponsors: Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council,  
 Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska State Historical Society,  
 Nebraska History Museum

Nebraska literature—following in the footsteps of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time president of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

### Nebraska Book Awards.

Nebraska books were honored in the categories of anthology, children/young adult, cover/design/illustration, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. To be eligible for nomination, books must be written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or set in Nebraska. For a complete list of winners, see [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/winners/nebook.html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/winners/nebook.html).

**NCB News.** Library Commission staff helped develop and distribute three editions of the Center for the Book newsletter. To access the newsletters, see [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/news.html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/news.html).

**National Book Festival.** Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined Mary Ellen Ducey and Donna Kennedy Marvin, of the Nebraska Center for the Book Board, along with volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, DC, to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of the States in Washington, DC. They shared information about Nebraska literature with more than 5,000 visitors.

**National Idea Exchange.** The Library Commission provided financial

assistance for Nebraska Center for the Book board member Charles Johanningsmeier to represent Nebraska at the National Ideas Exchange in Washington, DC. The information-sharing activity kept the board apprised of what's happening at the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and at state centers for the book around the country.

### Letters about Literature.

Nebraska students were recognized by Governor Dave Heineman for their letters to influential authors. This annual national reading/writing contest invites young readers to write a letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. For a complete list of winners, see [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html)

### Celebration of Nebraska Books.

This celebration featured the 2012 One Book One Nebraska book selection, honored winners of the Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announced the choice for the 2013 One Book One Nebraska reading program. Winning authors read from their books and signed copies. The Nebraska Center for the Book Annual meeting was held just prior to the celebration, with a reception concluding the event.

**One Book One Nebraska.** The Commission supported the One Book One Nebraska program—assisting with selection and promotion of a title for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* was the 2013 selection. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state hosted activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book, see [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook).

For more information about Center for the Book activities, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov). ☛



**Bookmobile at Fremont Public Library, 1939**  
Source: Nebraska Library Commission

## Nebraska Memories Offers Rich Heritage Resources

**N**ebraska Memories offered access to Nebraska-related primary source materials—digital images of glass plate negatives, photographs, postcards, stereoscopes, sheet music, maps, and documents—at <http://memories.ne.gov>. For Blog postings highlighting images and collections, see the *Nebraska Memories* category on the *NCompass Blog* at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/>. For more information contact Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 5.



## Continuing Education is Continuing Priority

**T**he Nebraska Library Commission continued a long-standing commitment to support Nebraska libraries in their efforts to improve library service by providing continuing education (CE) and training for library staff members. From July 2012 through June 2013, the Commission sponsored or underwrote 339 events, attended by 2,190 Nebraska library staffers. As the roles of libraries changed, so did the skills and knowledge base needed by librarians. The Nebraska Library Commission offered continuing education events that addressed these new roles, while continuing to provide many CE opportunities in traditional library skills.

Some of the methods of content delivery also changed. As some technologies matured and Internet access improved in rural Nebraska, the Commission took the opportunity to use various content-delivery technologies, modeling them for Nebraska libraries. Webinars offered a way to learn without traveling. The Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass Live* provided a weekly one-hour program—very popular due to the variety of programming and convenience. *NCompass*, the Commission's learning portal, offered asynchronous, interactive learning opportunities. Staff also used video to reach library audiences. Traditional lecture, workshops, demonstrations, and meetings were still well attended.

New roles for libraries provided subject matter for many continuing education events. In March, new cataloging protocols went into effect and the Commission provided workshops, Webinars, consulting, and information about national events on the changes in this fundamental

library service. As eReaders, tablet computers, and smart phones grew in popularity, so did downloadable eBooks provided through Nebraska libraries. The Commission continued to offer demonstrations and workshops to help libraries provide good reading experiences using these new technologies.

Libraries are becoming ever more technologically dependent. More computers and better, faster connections mean more and better services for library users, but they also mean that the library staff must become more tech-savvy. The Commission provided many technology-related events, such as the Tech Planning Summer Camp; Tech Rodeo, an immersive 2-day event of experimenting with new media; and Library 2.0 series, an online self-directed learning program that encouraged participants to experiment with and learn about new and emerging technologies—exploring a different technology every month. Libraries are working more with other organizations and agencies in the community to let community members know more about all the services libraries provide and to advocate for support for library programs that are so useful to the community. The Nebraska Library Commission offered workshops and training on advocacy, marketing, and community partnerships.

The Commission also provided programming for small, rural libraries with its virtual conference, "Big Talk from Small Libraries," a one-day event reaching hundreds of libraries all across the country. New Accreditation Guidelines in 2013 required some workshops, videos, and training events for library directors

(continued on page 19)



**Bertrand baseball team, 1920**  
Source: Phelps County Historical Society



## Commission Funds Regional Library Systems

# NEBRASKA Regional Library Systems

The Library Commission provided \$596,402 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's six Regional Library Systems during Fiscal Year 2013. These nonprofit organizations worked to improve library services through cooperation between all types of libraries and media centers within each System area. With the support of the Library Commission, the Regional Library Systems provided to member libraries:

**Resource Sharing** – Among items loaned were book discussion kits, videos, laptops and projectors, Wii gaming kits, Playaway books, professional journals and magazines, storytelling kits, iPods and MP3 players, eReaders, laminators, binding systems, poetry kits, Spanish kits, DVD players, cutting machines and dies, and scanners.

**Consultation** – System administrators consulted on numerous topics with member libraries, including weeding, collection development, accreditation, E-rate discounts, personnel policies, automation systems, Interlibrary Loan, computer security, censorship, and data collection. They communicated with member libraries in person and through newsletters, Websites, flyers, e-mail, listservs, Facebook pages, and meetings.

**Continuing Education** – The Systems partnered with the Library Commission to present sessions on Trustee Training and Board Development (including "Planning for Nebraska Public Libraries"), leadership (including the Library Leadership Institute reunion), children's services (including summer reading programs), book repair,

library ethics, intellectual freedom, library collection development, eBooks/eReaders, vod- and podcasting, and LibraryThing. They facilitated annual meetings, specialized meetings and training for public library directors and youth services librarians, workshops on automation software, and sessions at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association/Mountain Plains Library Association (NLA/NSLA/MPLA) conference—including hosting a Nebraska Authors Panel and a Read Aloud Nebraska Pre-conference. Administrators arranged for a variety of national speakers to come to Nebraska, including a partnership with the Nebraska Library Association's Public Library and Trustee Section to arrange for Carolyn Davidson Brewer to present "Help! I'm Not a Social Worker" (a workshop about dealing with difficult patrons) in four locations across the state. They staffed exhibit booths to educate stakeholders about library services, sponsored scholarships for local librarians to attend workshops, and in conjunction with the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association organized a bus trip to the American Library Association Conference in Chicago to provide a low-cost transportation option for Nebraska librarians attending this national conference.

### Regional Library System Highlights:

#### **Eastern (ELS)**

- Sponsored/cosponsored continuing education including School Librarians Day, Youth Services Retreat (in cooperation with SELS), summer reading

program, board roles and responsibilities, and strategic planning

- Facilitated regular meetings of system groups including DIRECT (public library directors) and CLICK (youth services librarians)
- Consulted with and visited libraries around the system
- Provided orientation and support for new library directors
- Loaned book bags for discussion groups

#### **Meridian (MLS)**

- Sponsored/cosponsored continuing education including a Summer Reading Program Workshop; Focus on Youth session; author Jean Lukesh on books and writing; Keeping Up With Technology Workshop; PLA Spring Symposium site license (in cooperation with RVLS); Basic E-Rate; Youth Services Day; and Personnel Policies
- Weeding projects included assisting at individual libraries and sponsoring the Week of Weeding, during which eleven libraries weeded 3,448 items
- Conducted a system-wide survey
- Visited all the northern libraries
- Added four new titles to book club sets, with 44 sets circulating this year

#### **Northeast (NELS)**

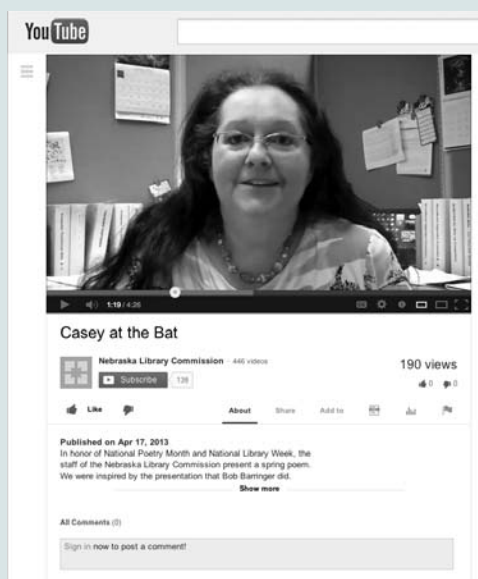
- Sponsored 21 workshops, including a day-long annual meeting, with 503 attendees
- Loaned 755 books, journals, videos, etc.
- Maintained a Website through the *Nebraska Libraries on the Web* project, with 7,571 hits in the last year, and assisted libraries in setting up their own Websites
- Maintained and frequently updated a System Facebook page—with 61 followers
- Visited 43 libraries, traveling 4,422 miles on system business.
- Began a pricing discount opportunity for Freegal, with six libraries subscribing
- Sponsored a Week of Weeding, with fourteen libraries participating
- Provided ten OverDrive training workshops for library staff and customers at eight libraries

(continued on page 19)



## Library Commission Staff Celebrate National Poetry Month

Hear “Casey at the Bat” read by Nebraska Library Commission staff—one line at a time—at <http://youtu.be/EggDi4VHHUU>. Inspired by Bob Barringer’s presentation at the Big Talk from Small Libraries workshop, and because April was National Poetry Month, the staff experimented with a group poetry reading via video. ➡



JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission BTOP Grant Project and Program Coordinator, recites her section of “Casey at the Bat.”

## Database Developed for Researchers

Nebraska Legislators, Past and Present database is now available on the Nebraska Library Commission’s NebraskAccess Website. See <http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/legislators.asp> for information about all past members of the Nebraska Legislature—beginning in 1857—some with biographical sketches scanned from the *Nebraska Blue Book*. For more information contact Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission Historical Services Librarian, 402-471-3217 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [beth.goble@nebraska.gov](mailto:beth.goble@nebraska.gov). ➡

Dear Nebraska Library Commission,

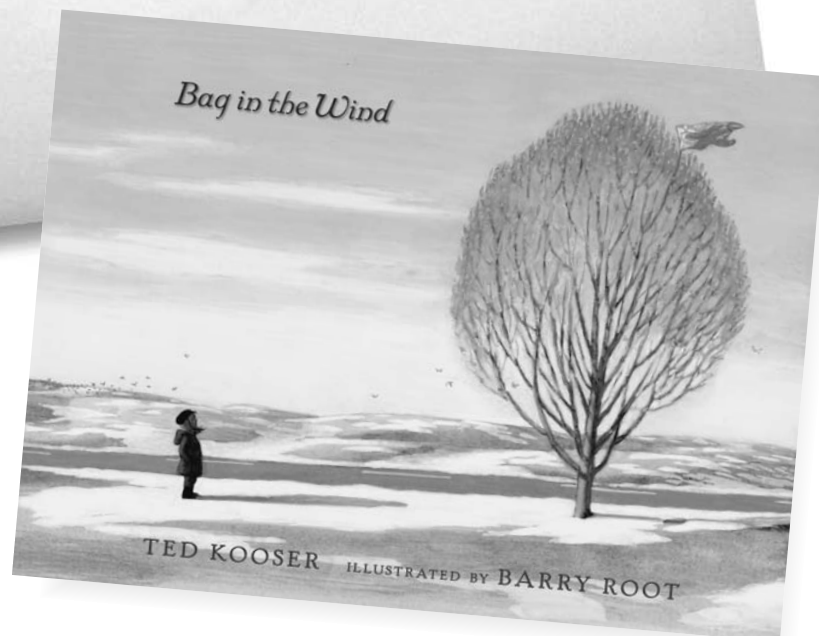
Jodi Storer and I would like to thank you very much for donating a copy of “Bag in the Wind” by Ted Kooser to our school library.

Dianne Jay at the Paxton Public Library brought it to us after the annual meeting of the Panhandle Library System. I had read the copy we have here in the public library and was going to order one for Paxton Consolidated Schools District #6 when school starts.

It will work well when we observe Earth Day at school.

Thank you.

Phyllis Peak, Paxton Public Schools



## Continuing Education is Continuing Priority

(continued)

and trustees concerning library strategic planning. Commission staff worked with Regional Library System directors to provide recorded and in-person guidance on how to plan. The Commission continued to offer programs that deal with ongoing

library programs such as summer reading, which new research shows as more important than ever to help combat summer learning loss. For more information, contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 12. ➡

## Commission Supports Regional Library Systems

(continued)

### **Panhandle (PLS)**

- Provided Jobalike sessions and public librarian meetings for networking and idea-sharing
- Facilitated author tours
- Helped libraries improve their collections by assisting with weeding and collection development projects, adding materials to the professional resources collection, and routing professional journals
- Circulated books, videos, iPod, inventory scanner, journals, book bags, binding system, laminator, and Wii gaming kit
- Facilitated training, including joint workshops with NSLA, other systems, and the Library Commission
- Implemented a shared automation project

### **Republican Valley (RVLS)**

- Facilitated workshops about advocacy, storytelling, computer troubleshooting, health information for patrons, developing a library Facebook page, personnel policies, and video book trailers
- Cleaned and repaired nearly 1,000 discs to keep them circulating through System members' collections
- Established a popular new "Display Ideas" service. A minimum of ten display ideas were provided for each month
- Consulted with both public and school librarians on a variety of topics

including the use of eBooks and eReaders

- Circulated audiobooks, professional books and journals, classroom book sets, and equipment
- Granted thirteen scholarships
- Coordinated the purchase of 145 puppets

### **Southeast (SELS)**

- Provided consultation on more than sixty topics, including computer policy and children, automation systems, legislative issues, DVD storage, privacy, and weeding
  - Provided continuing education to 1,000+ attendees on more than 110 topics including: Personnel Policies, Google Apps & Websites, Mobile Tech Training, Tablet Devices, Medline+, Professional Journal Reviews, Service Animals in the Library, Disaster Planning, American FactFinder, Genealogy, Pinterest & Facebook, Booktalks, and Wikipedia
  - The SELS van traveled more than 9,000 miles and carried more than forty passengers
  - Collaborated on projects with more than fifteen community library organizations
  - Hosted the Training Extravaganza
- For more information, contact Richard Miller, see contact information on page 7. ➡

## Commission Facilitates Library Recruitment

The Nebraska Library Commission continued to place emphasis on helping to match the best candidates with Nebraska library job openings. Encouraging Nebraska library professionals to share materials with promising prospects helped implement the "Each One Reach One" recruiting effort of the grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian** program. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see page 15 for contact information. ➡

Thousands  
of people work in  
Nebraska libraries.

You could be  
one of them.

Contact us about  
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Nebraska  
Library Commission



INSTITUTE of  
Museum and Library  
SERVICES

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## Need a library job? Need to hire a librarian?

Use the Nebraska Library Commission job search Website at <http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.nebraska.gov/JobsAndCareers.asp> to help locate jobs in Nebraska and contiguous states. Search by location or keyword. Advertise open positions. Questions? Contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [mary.geibel@nebraska.gov](mailto:mary.geibel@nebraska.gov). ➡



# Nebraska Library Commission

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## Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics / July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013

- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission circulated **7,792** items, with book club circulation representing **6,532**.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **3,328** customers on-site.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **252** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **7,043** items from other libraries for Nebraska library customers.
- ☞ Nebraska OverDrive Group library customers downloaded **66,654** audio books and **159,304** eBooks.
- ☞ The Library Commission's *Nebraska Memories* collection grew to **10,324** images.
- ☞ **2,981** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **163,135**.
- ☞ **479** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **46,904**.
- ☞ **1,372** electronic state documents were added, bringing the total of state e-docs to **6,849**. These e-docs were accessed **71,358** times.
- ☞ Library Commission staff and guest trainers broadcast **51** *NCompass Live* sessions, with **861** attending live and thousands viewing the archived recordings.
- ☞ The Library Commission hosted and supported Websites for **50** public libraries and **3** regional library systems.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **160,997** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to **3,683** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **146** magazine issues and **9** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **436** audiocassettes and **29,717** digital cartridges.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **16,100** audio books and **547** audio magazines.
- ☞ **2,190** Nebraska library staff and board members attended **339** continuing education events sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission, including **448** individuals who participated in Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ There are currently **891** participants in the Nebraska Library Commission's Librarian Certification program, up from **812** last year.
- ☞ **175** public libraries were accredited.

